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ANALYSIS BRIEF
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How IndiaSpend's Hate Crime Tracker Selected Its Cases

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that IndiaSpend's reliance on English-language coverage and its selection and classification of cases make the tracker an unreliable basis for nationwide claims about communal violence. A comparison of six months in 2018 with English- and Hindi-language coverage identifies omissions and questions how the tracker assigned perpetrators' religion in cases such as Kasganj and Asansol.



Representative image: PUNIT PARANJPE/AFP/GettyImages

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Swarajya examined six months of 2018 tracker entries and compared them with omitted cases in English outlets and cases reported in Hindi but overlooked in English.
- Sharma found that the tracker left the alleged perpetrators' religion unknown in the Kasganj killing after arrests and updated the entry after she flagged it.
- IndiaSpend explained its exclusion of the Auraiya sadhu killings by treating smuggling as profit-driven. Sharma challenged the consistency of that reasoning across cases in the tracker.
- In Asansol's Ram Navami violence, Sharma found that just one of four casualties appeared in the tracker and that its cited source did not identify the perpetrators as Hindu.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in November 2018. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.